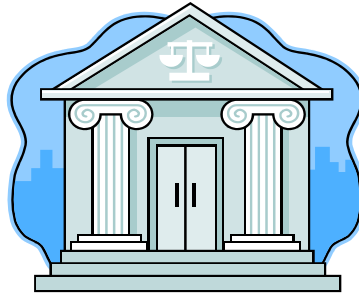


California Judicial System

Largest Court System in the United States
2,000 Judicial Officers-19,000 Employees
Serving 34 million people

Source- Administrative Office of the Courts,
CA Judicial Branch Fact Sheet. Jan 2004



California Supreme Court

- 1 Chief Justice and 6 Associate Justices
- Justices appointed by Governor and confirmed by voters statewide for 12-year terms
- Required by the Constitution to review all death penalty judgments
- Has authority to review decisions of CA courts of appeal (reviewed 8,917 filings in 2001-2002 issued 101 opinions)
- Appellate court with final authority on matters regarding the California Constitution and state law

California Courts of Appeal

- 105 justices in 6 appellate districts, 9 court sites and 19 divisions
- Justices appointed by Governor and confirmed by voters statewide for 12-year terms
- 25,465 cases filed in 2001-2002
- Have appellate jurisdiction over cases that superior courts hear and in other areas decided by statute
- Establish precedent for superior courts to follow, correct errors

California Superior Courts

- 1,498 authorized judges in 58 counties
- Judges are elected by voters in their counties to serve 6- year terms
- Over 8 million cases filed in 2001-2002
- Decide cases by applying the law to the facts in individual cases
- Trial courts with original jurisdiction in criminal, civil, family, probate, mental health, small claims, juvenile and traffic matters